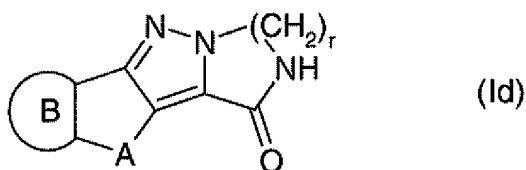


REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and remarks to follow and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires the applicants to amend claims in accordance to the restriction requirement.

In response, applicants have amended the claims as indicated in the above manner. Specifically, the amendment is based upon the Page 2 and Page 5 of the Office Action dated on January 18, 2007 wherein the elected groups include Claims 13-22 and 27 (in part), drawn to products of formula (Id) which can be found at Page 13, line 5 of the instant specification. The structure of formula (Id) is shown below.



More specifically, applicants have withdrawn Claims 1-12, 23-26 and 28-32 in accordance with the restriction requirement. It is to be noted that applicants have traversed the restriction requirement. Therefore, applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter. Moreover, applicants have deleted Claims 14-20 without prejudice. It is to be noted that applicants have not abandoned the deleted subject matter and reserve the right to file a continuation application directed thereto. Furthermore, applicants have amended Claim 13 and Claim 22 as indicated in the above manner.

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at Page 13, lines 3-8; and Page 6, line 27 to Page 8, line 10.

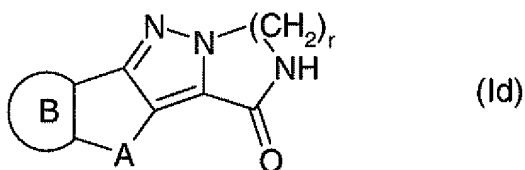
Since the above amendment to the claims does not introduce any new matter into the application, entry thereof is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement for using the term “prodrugs”.

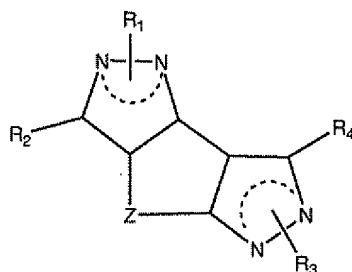
In response and in an effort to expedite favorable prosecution, the applicants have deleted the term “prodrug” from Claim 13. Since the amendment to Claim 13 obviates the §112, first paragraph rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 13-18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,730,430 to Le Tourneau (“Le Tourneau”).

In response, applicants submit that the claims of the present application are not anticipated by the disclosure of Le Tourneau since the compounds disclosed by the cited reference are structurally different from those of the present invention. Specifically, in view of amended Claim 13, the structure of the compounds recited therein is fused tetracyclics. In contrast, the structure of the compounds disclosed by Le Tourneau denotes fused tricyclics. Moreover, Le Tourneau fails to disclose the lactam ring which is one of the fused tetracyclics recited in amended Claim 13. The above-described structural distinction between compounds recited in the present invention and that of the cited reference is further illustrated by the following:



Structure of the compounds recited in amended Claim 13



Structure of compounds disclosed by Le Tourneau

(R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ shown above are hydrogen or methyl)

The foregoing remarks clearly demonstrate that Le Tourneau does not teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention. Therefore, the claims of the present application are not anticipated by the disclosure of the cited reference. As such, applicants respectfully submit that the instant §102 rejection over Le Tourneau has been obviated, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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